Offline Activity Suggestions aligned with Mystery Science Units

Continue science learning at home with these suggestions of activities with low tech & supply requirements. Activity suggestions are organized by grade and Mystery Science Unit.

Mystery Science Kindergarten			
Unit 1: Weather Watching	**Unit 2: Force Olympics**	**Unit 3: Plant & Animal Secrets**	**General Science Ideas**
Weather Journal: Have students observe the weather & draw what they see.	Kick a soccer ball & explore ideas about how a harder kick makes the ball go farther.	Go on a nature walk. Make observations about the plants & animals you see & explain why their environments are good places to live.	Find an interesting object & observe it carefully. See if you can notice details that someone else can't. Can you describe it so well that someone can figure out what it is, even if they don't see it?
	Use a soccer ball to explore how different surfaces (grass, sidewalk, driveway) effects how the ball rolls.	Watch a seed grow. It can be a garden seed or a dried bean you eat. Place the seed in a plastic baggie with a wet paper towel covering one side so you can see what happens as it grows.	Cut out pictures from magazines to make pattern collages by color, shape, size, etc.
	Use a soccer ball to see what happens when it collides with other objects.	Find an animal either outside or living in your own home. Watch it carefully. Where does it go? What is it doing? Why is it doing what it is doing – is it looking for food, or water, or a safe place?	

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Mystery Science First Grade			
Unit 1: Plant & Animal Superpowers	**Unit 2: Lights & Sounds**	**Unit 3: Spinning Sky**	**General Science Ideas**
Watch videos of baby animals & their parents and describe how they interact.	Go on a light scavenger hunt in your house. What kind of light sources can you find? How are these light sources used? Write about a light source in your house and how it helps you and your family.	Moon Journal – Observe the sun, moon, & stars over multiple days. Describe the differences in their appearance or location from day to day or week to week.	Find an interesting object & observe it carefully. See if you can notice details that someone else can't. Can you describe it so well that someone can figure out what it is, even if they don't see it?
Describe the ways baby animals & parents look alike & different.	Draw a cartoon. Then create sound effects with any materials/toys from home to go with your cartoon.	Measure shadow patterns every hour to see how they change during the day. Can you make a specific kind of shadow puppet (that is a particular size & shape)? How did you do that?	Cut out pictures from magazines to make pattern collages by color, shape, size, etc.
Biomimicry Extra from M5 Find an animal either outside or living in your own home. Watch it carefully. Where does it go? What is it doing? Why is it doing what it is doing – is it looking for food, or water, or a safe place?			

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Mystery Science Second Grade			
Unit 1 & 4: Plant and Animal Adventures	**Unit 2: Work of Water**	**Unit 3: Material Magic**	**General Science Ideas**
Nature Walk: describe plant & animal parts & how they might help the organisms survive.	Go outside after a windy or rainy day. Describe what changes they see or what is different about the environment. Discuss how the wind or water might have caused these changes.	Go on a scavenger hunt in the kitchen together & put all the bowls, utensils, pots and pans in groups based on similarities and differences.	Find an interesting object & observe it carefully. See if you can notice details that someone else can't. Can you describe it so well that someone can figure out what it is, even if they don't see it?
Nature Walk: Walk around your neighborhood & record the different plants, insects, and animals you see. Then go to a different neighborhood or park and find out if the same plants, insects, and animals are present.	Try to figure out how much water you use in a day by using kitchen measuring device to collect water when you wash your hands or brush your teeth.	Find something that is broken. Take it apart to see if you can find a way to fix it or reuse the parts.	Cut out pictures from magazines to make pattern collages by color, shape, size, etc.
		Work with your family to sort items in the trash and/or recycling containers into categories based upon their properties. Are they made from metal, plastic, wood?	

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Mystery Science Third Grade			
Unit 1: Stormy Skies	**Unit 2: Invisible Forces**	**Unit 3: Animals Through Time**	**Unit 4: Power of Flowers**
Create a tornado safety plan for your family. What should you do to make sure you are ready if a tornado were to hit?	Toss a ball outside, or in an open space inside, and discuss how to make it go shorter and farther distances.	Watch videos of baby animals & their parents and describe how they interact. Describe the ways baby animals and parents look alike and different.	Look at different plants growing outside. Discuss parts of the plants that help them grow or survive. If you can, plant some seeds to watch them grow.
Cloud Journal – What kind of clouds do you see? What does this tell you about the weather or future weather?	Have a paper bridge building contest with your family. Design the rules & procedures & then lead your family/siblings through the challenge. Who can build the best (strongest, longest, etc.) bridge?	What kind of dog would you like in the future? Create a new dog breed & describe the characteristics the new breed would get from each parent.	Go through the veggie & fruit drawers in your refrigerator. Are all the veggies really veggies? Did you find any new Science fruits that you didn't realize were fruits?
			Make a flip book of roots, stems, and flowers for plants and heads, bodies, and feet for birds based on your own observations and/or images from media. Mix & match them and draw the environment that would be required for the organism to survive.

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Mystery Science Fourth Grade			
Unit 1: Birth of Rocks	**Unit 2: Energizing Everything**	**Unit 3: Human Machine**	**Unit 4: Waves of Sound**
Find a rock and observe it carefully. Write a story to describe where the rock came from and what made it look the way it does.	Be an energy sleuth! Document all of the objects in your home & the evidence you have that they are using electricity. Consider whether they are using energy when not in use and could be unplugged to save energy. Make a family plan to conserve energy.	Discuss ideas about why it might be harder to see at night or in a dark room compared to in daylight or a brightly lit room.	Take apart an electronic toy that has a light or makes a sound and investigate the circuit inside the toy. Draw a model of the circuit inside the toy. Using evidence from your model/drawing, explain how the circuit works.
Go outside after a windy or rainy day. Describe what changes they see or what is different about the environment. Discuss how the wind or water might have caused these changes.	Take apart an electronic toy that has a light or makes a sound and investigate the circuit inside the toy. Draw a model of the circuit inside the toy. Using evidence from your model/drawing, explain how the circuit works.	What animal does each eye belong to? Match the animal to the eye. What clues did you notice/use to determine which eye belonged to which animal? (See Remote Learning Extra)	Go on a hike to the Fox River or a pond near your house. Throw a rock into the pond/river. What do you notice? How did the waves form? Draw a model to explain what happened.
	When you're riding in a car, wonder about why the windows on one side of the car are warmer than the other car windows. When you get home, draw a model to explain it.		

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Mystery Science Fifth Grade			
Unit 1: Watery Planet	**Unit 2: Web of Life**	**Unit 3: Chemical Magic**	**Unit 4: Spaceship Earth**
Try to figure out how much water you use in a day by using kitchen measuring devices to collect water when you wash your hands and brush your teeth. Estimate how much water it takes to flush the toilet, wash clothes, wash dishes. Make a family plan to conserve water.	Discuss how the construction of a new house or building might change the ecosystem that was there before the construction began.	Cook a meal together & discuss how sometimes when you mix 2 substances together, something new forms, or whether you can change something back to its raw form after you have cooked it.	Observe the sun, moon, and stars over multiple days (in a journal with descriptions & drawings.) Describe the differences in their appearance or location from day to day or week to week.
Go outside after a windy or rainy day. Describe what changes they see or what is different about the environment. Create a plan to reduce the amount of wind/rain damage.	Observe the living things (plants, insects, animals, etc) and the nonliving things (air, water, sun, etc) interact in your front yard. Draw a model of this ecosystem to show how they all interact.	Find something that is broken and take it apart to identify all of its pieces. Develop a model to explain how the parts work together and what happens when a piece is broken.	Measure shadow patterns every hour to see how they change during the day. Can you make a specific kind of shadow puppet (that is a particular size & shape)? How did you do that?
Go on a neighborhood walk & collect any garbage/trash you find along the way. What did you find? How much? Create a video/sign/handout to show how communities can work together to conserve Earth's resources & environment.		Place different objects in a container filled with water. Discuss what happens to the objects. Why do you think some of the objects float and other objects sink?	Count and record how many stars you can see every night. Draw what the moon looks like every night to identify patterns.

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